move that the Bill be read in Council. The object of the amendment is clear from the Objects and Reasons. Section 9 of the Regulation contemplates a taxing officer. But it is not stated as to who that officer is to be. Now the amendment says that the Chief Court shall declare who that taxing officer shall be within the meaning of that section. That is the sole purpose of this amendment.

**Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.**—I second it.

**Deputy President.**—I do not think that there is any opposition and so it is passed.

**Mr. A. Sankara Menon.**—I do not want the matter to be placed before a Select Committee.

**Secretary to the Council.**—The title of the Bill is 'The Cochin Court Fees Regulation Amendment Bill'.

**Mr. A. Sankara Menon.**—I request the President may be pleased to suspend Standing Order No. 32 and allow me to move that the Bill be taken up for consideration.

**Deputy President.**—That may be done.

**Mr. A. Sankara Menon.**—I move that the Bill may be taken for consideration.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—I second it.

**Deputy President.**—"*After the proviso to section 9 and before section the following paragraph shall be added, viz., "The Chief Court shall declare who shall be the taxing officer within the meaning of this section.*"

All are agreed. So it is passed.

**Mr. A. Sankara Menon.**—The Bill may be taken up and passed to-morrow.

**Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.**—I second it.

(*The motion was agreed to.*)

## Resolutions on Matters of General Public Interest:—

### 1. Distance between liquor shops.

**Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—I move that "*this Council recommends that there should at least be a distance of not less than half a mile between one liquor shop and another in towns and of one mile in other areas.*" Sir, the principle embodied in the resolution has been accepted by the Government. It is not the object of the Government to tempt people to drink and it is, therefore, absolutely necessary that shops should be reduced in numbers and that they should be located far away from one another and in places where people don't gather in large numbers. A resolution to the effect that shops should be situated about half a furlong away from public places has been passed by this Council, and if this resolution is also accepted, it would help

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the Government very much to lay definite rules about locating liquor shops.

**Deputy President.**—The Committee has also recommended.

**Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—I understand now from the President that the Excise Committee has made a recommendation to this effect.

**Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.**—As a rule. The Member knows it.

**Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—But the Council should know it.

**Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.**—As a rule, it should be so. A memorandum has been sent to him.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—You go on your way.

**Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—The principle contained in the resolution has been accepted by the Government and the chief fact we have to consider in discussing this resolution is that this resolution if accepted would avoid unhealthy competition between liquor vendors. Now many shops are situated very close to one another. Naturally there is unhealthy competition between liquor vendors. As a result of it, people are more and more in numbers tempted to visit liquor shops. This resolution would put an end to it. Another general principle underlying this resolution is that two or more shops should not be equally convenient to a considerable number of persons. That also has been accepted even by the Government of India and further they have also accepted that any extension of the habit of drinking is to be discouraged. Our Government have also accepted these principles, and as this resolution is in accordance with the principles accepted by the Government, I don't find any serious objection on the part of the Government for accepting this. In answer to the question that how many liquor shops are situated near markets, hospitals, places of public worship, etc., the Government said that there are 390 shops. We have got only less than thousand shops and of these 390 shops are situated very close to public places. It is very important, therefore, that liquor shops should be removed from the places where people gather in large numbers in order to avoid temptation. I hope the Government will accept this resolution.

**Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—Does the word 'liquor' include all kinds of liquor ?

**Mr. V. D. Ouseph.**—Liquor includes every kind.

**Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.**—Foreign liquor also ?

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—I second the resolution.

**Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.**—I support this motion. The Member has brought this motion, I believe, on account of the fact that the Government, in spite of accept-

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ing the policy which has been discussed in this House many a time, does not put into effect practically the policy which the Government nominally accepts. I, therefore, support the motion in order to bring to the notice of the Government that the Government should try as far as possible to decrease the number of liquor shops.

**Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.**—I support the motion. My object in supporting this motion is only to limit and to reduce the number of shops as promised by the Government. Unless some such restriction is imposed upon the Department, the Department also will find it difficult on account of competition between several contractors to reduce the number of shops. I must confess at this time that I do not devote much time for it. The matter has become so stale, and the policy of the Government has also become stale. I strongly support the motion.

**Mr. A. L. Antony.**—May I know whether in our State there is any shop which is one mile away from another shop at present existing? In our State the distance between two liquor shops is more than one mile. But by the effect of this resolution the number of shops will not be reduced.

**Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Certainly in towns it will be reduced.

**Deputy President.**—In towns half a mile.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—There is one amendment.

**Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.**—Now with regard to the information asked for by the Member, most of the shops are beyond one mile in rural parts. In towns also there are very few shops which are within half a mile.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—Then accept the resolution.

**Deputy President.**—As a rule. There may be a few yards.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—Why should you have this favoured few? Why not have the rule extended to all the shops? We don't want to give this favouring business to any Department.

**Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.**—If the speeches are over, I shall say what I have got to say.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.**—There is an amendment to this resolution standing in my name. I believe, if you would explain things, probably there will be no necessity for any speech.

The distance that is contemplated in the resolution moved and seconded is only half a mile in towns and one mile in rural areas. As pointed out by the Hon'ble Member for Kattur, I believe that there are not many shops within a distance of half a mile in towns and within one mile in ru areas.

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**Deputy President.**—That is the policy of the Government also.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—I know, Sir, in Mattancheri, within one furlong there are shops.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.**—I do not contradict that statement. The object being to lessen the facilities for persons who are bent upon drinking, the amendment suggests that the distance in towns be increased by 'two miles' and in rural areas to 'four miles'. Total prohibition is the goal to be aimed at and with a view to gain that end gradual prohibition may be practised and the distance between liquor shops in towns may be made 2 miles and in rual areas it may be made 4 miles. The object is only to give the least convenience possible for those persons who want to drink. Those who are bent on drinking will go to any distance for drinking. The nearness of shops will invite persons to the shops who may otherwise not frequent those places. Therefore, the amendment is tabled, and I am sure that the amendment will be acceptable to the movereof the resolution.

**D puty President.**—Anybody to second that amendment ?

**Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.**—I beg to second that amendment.

മിസ്റ്റർ ഔസേപ്പ് കണ്ടുകുളം.— സർ, കള്ളുഷാപ്പുകൾക്ക തമ്മിൽ പട്ടണങ്ങളിൽ അര നാഴികയും നാട്ടുപ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ ഒരു നാഴികയും അകലം ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കണമെന്നാണ് ഈ റസല്യൂഷൻ കൊണ്ടുവന്ന മെംബറിന്റെ പ്രമേയം.

ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡെണ്ട്.—അതു മാറി ഒരു നാഴിക വഴി അകലത്തിൽ കുറയാതെയുള്ള ദൂരത്തിലെ ഷാപ്പുകൾ പാടുള്ളൂ എന്നാണ് പറയുന്നത്.

മിസ്റ്റർ ഔസേപ്പ് കണ്ടുകുളം.—ഒരു നാഴികയിൽ കുറയാതെയുള്ള ദൂരത്തിൽ എന്നുപറയുമ്പോൾ അങ്ങിനെ നാമൊരു തരം കൊടുക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ എക്സൈസ്സ് മെംബർ വിചാരിച്ചാൽ ഇന്നുള്ളതിനെക്കാൾ അധികം ഷാപ്പുകൾ കൊച്ചി സംസ്ഥാനത്തു വെയ്ക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതാണ്. ഇപ്പോഴുള്ള ഷാപ്പുകളിൽ ഏറെ ഭാഗവും രണ്ടു നാഴിക വഴി അകലം ഉണ്ട്. ആ അകലം തന്നെ സാധുക്കളായ കുലവേലക്കാർക്കുവളരെ ദോഷത്തെ ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു കഴിഞ്ഞ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് മീറ്റിങ്ങിൽ ഞാനിവിടെ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ട് സാധുക്കളായ കുലവേലക്കാരുടെ ദാരിദ്ര്യത്തേയും രക്ഷയേയും കരുതി എങ്കിലും സർവ്വമെങ്കിലും ഈ ദൂരത്തെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കണം. ജനങ്ങൾ എത്ര ദാരിദ്ര്യവും കഷ്ടതയും അനുഭവിച്ചാലും ഞങ്ങളുടെ കല്പന നിറവേറണം എന്നുള്ള സർവ്വമ്മെ

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ണ്ടിന്റെ മക്കടമുഷ്ടിഭരണം രാജ്യത്തിനും ജനങ്ങൾക്കും വളരെ ദോഷകരമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണെന്നു് ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് ഓർമ്മിക്കണം. ഭേദഗതി പ്രമേയത്തിൽ പറയുന്ന പ്രകാരം നാലു നാഴിക അകലെ വച്ചാലും രണ്ടു ഷാപ്പുകൾക്കു തമ്മിലുള്ള അകലം മദ്ധ്യസ്ഥാനത്തു നിന്നും രണ്ടു നാഴികയെ ആവുകയുള്ളു. അതിനാൽ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് കള്ളുഷാപ്പിന്റെ കാര്യത്തിൽ പ്രത്യേകം ദയവു വിചാരിച്ചു് ഷാപ്പുകൾ തമ്മിൽ രണ്ടു നാഴികയിൽ കൂടുതലായ അകലം വരത്തക്കവിണ്ണമെങ്കിലും എന്റെ സ്വന്ത അഭിപ്രായത്തിൽ മൂന്നു വില്ലേജുകൾക്കു കൂടി ഒരു ഷാപ്പേ പാടുള്ളു. ഈ ഭേദഗതിയോടുകൂടി ഈ റസലൂഷനെ സ്വീകരിച്ചു നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

**Mr. M. K. Raman.**—The principle that the liquor shops should be as far apart as possible from each other is accepted by all. I need not add any further recommendation or reasoning of my own. If a man gets into a shop and takes a peg from there, he must have sufficient time before he reaches the next shop and patronises it. (*Laughter.*) If within a distance of half a mile he finds another shop for his indulgence, I submit that the Government will be doing a very cruel thing to him because the poor man has to pay his respects to that shop as well. As far as possible, therefore, I would strongly support the amendment brought forward by the Member for Vadakkancheri. We should keep the shops wide apart and also decrease the number of shops, decrease the quantity, and decrease the number of trees allowed for tapping. These alone will save the country from the evil of drink.

**Deputy President.**—Anybody else wishing to speak ?

**Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.**—With regard to the principle involved in this resolution, namely, that there should be a distance of not less than half a mile between liquor shops in the case of Municipal towns, and not less than one mile in the case of rural shops—that is the principle which the mover wants to adopt—it is true there is no hard-and-fast rule either in the Madras Presidency or in Travancore. Here also, though there has been no hard-and-fast rule upon the point, the principle adopted is that, as far as possible, there should be a reasonable distance, which in the majority of the shops is not less than half a mile between one shop and another, whether toddy or arrack, in towns, and not less than one mile in other areas. And the Department has been observing that principle for a very long time. And now that, for the last so many years, the number of shops is being reduced annually, sometimes by 2½ per cent, sometimes by three per cent, the distance between the shops is

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becoming greater. I have no objection to accept the principle. That is to say, as a rule, the distance will be not less than half a mile in the case of the shops in towns and not less than one mile in the case of rural shops. But there may be exceptions, but these exceptions will be very rare. There will be exceptions in the case of very congested areas where, if you limit the number of shops, that is, instead of two shops if you limit the number to one, it will not be able to supply the demand of all. The result will be overcrowding and sometimes riot and disturbances which we want to prevent. Therefore, in regard to other places, the distance has been adhered to and will be adhered to. With regard to the amendment, *viz.*, that there should be a distance of two miles between shops in towns and not less than four miles in rural tracts, if that amendment were to be accepted, then I think more than 50 per cent of the shops have to be abolished. (*Hear, hear.*)

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—Nobody stands in the way of these being abolished.

**Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.**—But Government interests have to be looked after.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—Not people's interests.

**Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.**—People's interests too. Even with the existence of so many shops, we find sale of illicit liquor every day. That shows, even if the shops were to be abolished, drink is not going to stop. Reformation, if at all, must come from within, and it is not correct to say that it is the Government which encourages drink. Tax has been imposed upon the intoxicants simply to regulate and minimise the drink habit. I have stated here in this House a number of times the evil which would result from an undue reduction in the number of shops. The system of hawking of liquor will begin, and instead of having one licensed shop there will arise a number of unlicensed shops. Persons will not take the trouble of going one mile or two miles for drink and the ErnakulamMunicipality, from where only liquor shops were removed but not the persons who drink ,is a standing example and I think a menace also. A number of malpractices is being detected there. But since each man is allowed to keep a certain quantity of liquor, it is not possible to prevent persons from possessing any quantity of liquor. We find there instead of licensed shops so many unlicensed shops where we find this minimum quantity of liquor. When the Excise officers go there, they will not be able to record a case as the quantity possessed will not be more than the limit of private possession without permit .It is very difficult to prove actual sales. Therefore, I strongly oppose the amend

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ment. With regard to the other, *i. e.*, the main resolution, I have said what the Government have to say.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—Is it because the headquarters are here?

**Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.**—What if my headquarters are here?

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—Illicit liquor is found everywhere. Is it because the headquarters are at Ernakulam?

**Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.**—I don't say illicit liquor is found everywhere. I say liquor can be had everywhere.

**Mr. C. Barton Wright.**—What is the disadvantage in not having too many shops? The drinking man will have to walk a little time and he will get thirsty I should think.

**Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.**—One word more with regard to the amendment. If the amendment were to be accepted, we can have in Mattancheri only one shop whereas there are so many shops in British Cochin. So instead of Cochin people going to our shops, they will be freely going to the British shops. The result is that the revenue, which should go to us, will go to other Governments.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—So, you oppose both the resolution and the amendment.

**Deputy President.**—He said 'as a rule'.

**Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.**—One seriously and the other not seriously.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—Sir, I move that the question be put.

**Deputy President.**—The whole thing is over.

I will put the amendment. "*This Council recommends that there should be at least a distance of not less than two miles between one liquor shop and another in towns and of 4 miles in other areas.*"

The amendment is carried. There is no use of putting the other motion.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.**—Neutrals also may be taken.

**Mr A B. Salem.**—The greater contains the less.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—Neutrals need not be taken.

## 2. ഇരിപ്പുവ് നികുതി.

**Deputy President.**—The next resolution is that standing in the name of Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എ. രാമചന്ദ്രയ്യർ.—"ഇരിപ്പുവ് നികുതി പിരിക്കുന്നതു് മേലിൽ നിറുത്തൽ ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണെന്നും ഈ കൌൺസിൽ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനോടു് ശിപാർശ ചെയ്യുന്നു" എന്ന പ്രമേയം ഞാൻ ഇവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. ഈ പ്രമേയം പലരോടും വള

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